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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-9

JULY 31, 1943

CROPS

July 1 prospect indicated *corn* crop this year of 2,706 million bushels, which would be 469 million bushels or 15 percent smaller than the record 1942 crop. Corn crop got a poor start by reason of rainy spring and later floods but has grown rapidly in recent weeks.

Total *wheat* crop of 791 million bushels indicated, 19 percent less than last year; includes 519 million bushels of winter wheat and estimated 272 million bushels of spring wheat. Harvest now well along, quality of crop good.

Oats crop indicated 1,242 million bushels, 8.6 percent below last year but 22 percent above average (1932-41).

Record acreage of *dry beans* is maturing; probable acreage harvested will be 29 percent over last year but crop only around 12 percent higher (indicated crop some 22 million bags of 100 pounds each).

Hay crop indicated around 100 million tons, good quality.

Cotton acreage just under 22 million acres, 5.6 percent under last year and smallest acreage in more than 40 years.

Combined yield of corn, oats, barley, and sorghums (four principal field grains) about 107 million tons, compared with 124 million last year.

Seven major deciduous fruits (peaches, pears, grapes, cherries, plums, prunes, apricots) total crop around 12 percent less than last year and 6 percent below average.

LIVESTOCK

Hog production in 1943 will be largest on record. Will exceed substantially previous record of 104 million head raised last year.

Spring pig crop totaled 74 million head, 22 percent over previous spring. If number of sows farrow this fall as indicated, with average-sized litters, fall pig crop would be roughly 53 million head.

Inspected slaughter of *cattle* during June was 9 percent less than in May and 32 percent under June last year. Smallest June slaughter since 1915.

Considered probable that increased numbers of cattle will come to market this fall; large number on ranges and in Corn Belt will be reaching slaughter weights and feed will be scarce.

FEED

Supply of feed grains this season, based on July 1 prospects, 137 million tons, 11 percent smaller than last year but 14 percent above 1937-41 average. Supply includes roughly 300 million bushels of wheat (which amount could be fed without bringing carry-over below 250 million bushels next July); 40 million bushels of rye; and an allowance for imports of oats, barley, and feed wheat from Canada. In relation to livestock to be fed, feed grain supply is 20 percent smaller than last year and about 14 percent below the average.

Hay crop is above average this year. Hay supply for the United States will be around 113 million tons, only 3 million under record supply last year.

Corn stocks July 1 totaled 827 million bushels, 30 million less than a year earlier. However, only 14 million bushels of this corn was in terminal elevators or in Government ownership, compared with 96 million bushels year previous. Recent movement of corn to terminals less than 3 million bushels weekly—an amount even below requirements of corn processors.

DAIRY

Milk production in June about like June last year (0.4 percent above last year); during first half of 1943 it was about like same period last year, but in last half of year may be 1 to 3 percent under year ago. Feed shortage looming as a brake on production, particularly lack of high-protein feeds.

Milk consumption unusually heavy. Consumption in second quarter of 1943 estimated 5 percent larger than in first quarter and 10 percent above second quarter of 1942.

With smaller production and larger consumption than year ago, output of manufactured milk products likely to decrease.

Storage stocks of *butter* increased considerably during June, under the 50 percent set-aside order. Stocks July 1 were 41 million pounds above year ago and 75 million pounds above June 1. Supplies of butter for civilians were short

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED¹

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	JUNE 15 1943	JULY 15 1943	JULY 15 1943
Cotton, lb. ct.	19.96	19.60	20.46
Wheat, bu. dol.	1.24	1.26	1.46
Corn, bu. dol.	1.06	1.08	1.06
Oats, bu. dol.	.648	.656	.658
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.88	1.67	1.21
Cattle, 100 lb. dol.	12.80	12.60	8.94
Calves, 100 lb. dol.	14.20	13.90	11.10
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	13.60	13.20	12.00
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	13.50	13.30	9.70
Eggs, doz. ct.	35.2	36.3	32.3
Chickens, live, lb. ct.	25.1	25.3	18.8
Butterfat, lb. ct.	49.2	49.2	40.5
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . . dol.	3.02	3.05	2.46

¹Prices are shown only for commodities, except cotton, for which 5 percent or more of annual sales are made by farmers during July. ²Adjusted for seasonal variation.

during June and early July. During June the Government bought 40 million pounds of butter to use mainly for military and lend-lease later in year. Storage stocks of cheese July 1 were 50 percent above average (although 45 percent below record 1942 stocks that date). Government bought 34 million pounds of cheese during June.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Record number of pullets being raised this year—about 16 percent more young chickens on farms than last year. Provides basis for further large increase in layers and egg production in 1944. Past relationships warrant expectation of 8 to 10 percent more layers on farms beginning of next year.

Egg production will decline seasonally until late fall but probably will continue above last year. Notwithstanding larger supplies, demand for eggs is outstripping production. Per capita consumption of eggs this year probably will exceed 345 eggs, compared with 320 eggs in 1942.

Farm sales of chickens will increase in coming weeks, reaching annual peak next fall. Receipts of live poultry at Midwest primary markets in early July were twice those of month earlier and somewhat larger than year ago. Demand for poultry continues to exceed supplies, at ceiling prices.

Turkey production expected about like last year. Civilian consumption of chickens and turkeys, as a percentage of all meats, will be about 21 percent this year, compared with 16 percent last year and 14 percent average (1935-39).

FATS AND OILS

Total production of oil from cottonseed, peanuts, soybeans, and flaxseed may be somewhat greater in 1943-44 than in previous year. Prospect that domestic seed may yield 200 million pounds more linseed oil this year than last. Cottonseed oil, however, may be about 200 million pounds less than last season.

Fats and oils used in United States soap industry in 1942 totaled 1,987 million pounds, 12 percent less than in 1941. About 418 million pounds less coconut and palm oils were used last year but 161 million pounds more inedible tallow and greases.

Allied occupation of Italy would create little additional demand for food fats and oils. In pre-war years Italy produced roughly 90 percent of food fats consumed there. She has, however, imported about 50 percent of the fats and oils used for industrial purposes.

FARM LABOR

Employment on farms July 1 was a record low for the date and wage rates reached a new high. Total number of persons employed on farms 11,749,000, about 2 percent under July last year and about 4 percent under 1938-42 July average. Number of family workers 8,763,000. Number hired workers 2,986,000. The latter include many school children, women, older men and townspeople. Inexperience of farm help, as well as shortage of workers, is now a factor affecting farm operations. Average farm wage rate index 274 (1910-14 = 100); in July last year was 202. Since July 1941 (summer before Pearl Harbor) farm wage rates have risen 114 points or 71 percent. Average farm wages per day, without board, this July range from \$6.80 in Washington State down to \$1.50 in South Carolina, the United States average being \$3.34 per day.

FARM INCOME

Cash income from farm marketings during June estimated at \$1,383 million, compared with 1,400 million in May and 1,070 million in June 1942. Government payments in June amounted to \$24 million, compared with 40 million in May and 42 million year previous. Total of cash income and Government payments \$1,407 million in June, compared with 1,440 million in May and 1,112 million in June last year.

Total income for the six months January-June, not including Government payments, \$7,802 million, compared with 5,784 million in same months last year. Government payments for the six months \$400 million this year, compared with 431 million last year.

MARKETING MARGINS

Charges for marketing farm food products dropped nearly 2 percent from May to mid-June, while city retail prices fell 1 percent. The farmer's share of the retail food dollar remained unchanged from May to June at 55 cents, following record highs of 56 and 57 cents during first four months of 1943.

The index of urban cost of living in June was 181 (1910-14 = 100), compared with 169 a year previous.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142—Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	JULY 1943
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	188
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	165
Parity ratio		114
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	165
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	¹ 183
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	274
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	² 393
RATIOS	LONG-TIME JULY AVERAGE	JULY 1943
Hog-corn ratio, U. S.	11.0	12.2
Butterfat-feed ratio, U.S. . .	22.4	23.2
Milk-feed ratio, U. S.	1.14	1.27
Egg-feed ratio, U. S.	14.8	17.1
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-JUNE 1942	JAN.-JUNE 1943
Milk, (Mil. lb.)	61,663	61,661
Eggs, (Mil.)	29,263	33,404
Beef, ³ (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	3,080	2,693
Pork and lard ³ (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4,861	5,740
All meats, ³ (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	8,624	9,033

¹ June figure. ² Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. June figure. ³ Federally inspected slaughter.